

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES**  
**Monday, May 8, 2017**  
**Brunswick Regional Library**  
**915 N. Maple Avenue, Brunswick, MD**

| <b>COA MEMBERS</b> | <b>DOA STAFF</b> | <b>EXCUSED</b>            | <b>UNEXCUSED</b> | <b>GUESTS</b>        |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Mary Beachley      | Kitty Devilbiss  | Marcy Gouge               |                  | Jeannette Bartelt    |
| Elizabeth Chung    | Sue Ramsburg     | M.C. Keegan-Ayer          |                  | Ray Brown            |
| Tom Lawler         | Carolyn True     | Randy McClement,<br>Mayor |                  | Amanda<br>Crawford   |
| Dianne Lewis       |                  | Leslie Schultz            |                  | Judy Kendro          |
| Ann McDermott      |                  |                           |                  | Helen Kerr           |
| Tish Raff          |                  |                           |                  | Cindy Kokoski        |
| Marie Reeves       |                  |                           |                  | Geoff Littrell       |
| Bobbie Speace      |                  |                           |                  | Veronica Lowe        |
| Thea Uhlig-Ruff    |                  |                           |                  | John Martin          |
| Sandra Wastler     |                  |                           |                  | Christine<br>Mayman  |
|                    |                  |                           |                  | Eileen<br>McLaughlin |
|                    |                  |                           |                  | Terry Miller         |
|                    |                  |                           |                  | Lori Stup            |
|                    |                  |                           |                  |                      |
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- I. Call to Order** – Dianne Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. Welcome & Introductions** – Dianne welcomed all attendees. She gave a brief description of the Commission and its goals. Commission members around the table introduced themselves. Members of the audience were invited to introduce themselves.

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- III. **Action on the Agenda** – There are no additions to the agenda today.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the April 10th meeting were approved. Thea Ruff had one change to the Aging in Place section on page 6. The last sentence should be “Marcy Gouge is new to the Commission but she has worked with sub-committee on Aging in Place. She has also started teaching some classes at FCC”. Bobbie Speace made a motion for approval with changes. Tom seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Livable Frederick, Dana French** - Dianne introduced Dana French who spoke about Livable Frederick which is a comprehensive plan for Frederick County to encompass all areas of growth and planning for the next twenty-five years and beyond. Dana stated that he is familiar with the Commission and their goals. The Steering Committee for Livable Frederick was created by the County Executive over a year ago and includes thirteen citizens. It was time to update the County’s comprehensive plan which is a government requirement. The plan looks several years ahead to guide actions as far as physical development and infrastructure. Zoning has been a major focus historically. However this has changed over the last few years because this focus is too narrow. It was decided that more than land use should be considered when planning. This is a new concept and will include more citizen input. The results of the Seniors First report was discussed as part of this process and the upcoming growth of the senior population in Frederick County. Eight workgroups were created to work on specific topics in functional areas.

Dana has done much work in the area of strategic planning. He sees as an obstacle for gathering citizen input the ability to reach all people in the county. The decision was made to use a survey. The 2,250 total responses contained 15,000 handwritten comments. Some of the responses included comments specific to affordable housing, transportation, health, senior issues, and the environment. The responses were received from every zip code in the county and included 431 citizens over the age of 60. The information from the survey was summarized into a one page result. This one page of information was merged into a vision which is stated in the present tense. There is a five page full draft which captures the essence of what is requested which is not published at this time. The vision is a picture of what is requested by the citizens; the question is how to

achieve that vision. There are various workgroups writing action plans on how to make things happen.

There are four broad scenarios and the group has been working with the County Planning Commission. There is a goal of making the small towns and grow them to make them more connected. This would lessen transportation obstacles. As work continues, approval would need to start with the Planning Commission and then move on to the County Council. It will also be put out for public comment. The vision and plan are divided into four segments; our community, our health, our economy, and our environment. It was decided that these are elements that are vital to the plan. There will be an action plan for each of these elements. Change is hard and this vision/plan is large to implement. There will need to be cooperation on all parts to fulfil the final product effectively. Individuals may need to put aside their specific wants/needs in order to be successful overall. This should be a living document which is open to change and growth as things change and new ideas come about. It should not end with just ideas of what to do, but will need some action to actually put in place the ideas. There have been some very good ideas/information submitted from the public. It is a great opportunity to embrace history while planning for an intentional future.

- V. Update on Dept. of Aging/Activities, Carolyn True** – Carolyn stated that work is being done to continue implementing the recommendations from the Seniors First report. There have been some workgroups developed. There is a Naming Committee which will begin to discuss ideas for naming the new Aging Division. There will be a two meetings in June and one in July. When the group has some options to choose from, the information will be sent to the County Executive and she will put the choices out to the public for vote. Marie, Tish, and Thea from this Commission, along with staff and community members, are on this specific group. Co-location of services is another initiative from the Report. Services included would be some agencies currently located at the Health Department, Dept. of Aging and Adult Services at the Dept. of Social Services. However, this will need to include more than just physical location and should include technology and how services are provided by each agency. There will be a meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and then community input will be solicited. The MoW workgroup will begin to work on a quality improvement initiative. This group consists of CoA

members, staff, and some MoW volunteers. The next initiative will be a senior center structure review which will start later this summer.

There will be a CoA By-law committee which will include Carolyn, Monica, and Dianne. Anyone else interested in this discussion and workgroup, please let Carolyn know.

The Area Plan is due to the Maryland Dept. of Aging on May 12<sup>th</sup>. This year's Plan is only an update; however it is still very lengthy. The Plan includes information on how the Department is planning to spend government (state/federal/local) funds on each program. Carolyn is willing to talk with anyone who has questions about this Plan.

An Open Meetings Act training will be held at Winchester Hall, second floor, on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. This is the date/time when the Commission normally has its monthly meeting. County Attorney John Mathias will provide the training.

**VI. Public Comment** – Judy Kendro spoke today about a small group meeting she attended on April 26<sup>th</sup> with Senator Ron Young to discuss issues affecting local residents. The topic she spoke of is the lack of affordable housing options for local seniors. His suggestion was for individuals to talk with developers. Judy talked with Jim Gugel who is the staff liaison to the Planning Commission. He gave him some information on potential senior communities in various areas of the county. One in Lake Linganore, one in Urbana, and one is north of the Homewood facility. However for the last community, the zoning would have to be changed in order to accommodate residential growth. Senator Young has proposed to phase out state taxes on retirement for seniors. This has not passed because of lack of support. He will continue to pursue this effort.

Jeannette Bartelt spoke today about the lack of options for paying for some of the exercise classes at the Frederick Senior Center which she attends. She presented today a petition with thirteen signatures of the seventeen who attended class on a specific day. They would like to have the option to pay as you go as opposed to paying a large amount for a session. Currently no prorating is allowed for participants who miss classes for various reasons. There are some classes at the senior center which are pay as you go. Dianne mentioned that there are some budgeting initiatives in the works that will allow for scholarships to help low income seniors afford the programs they would like to attend. Carolyn spoke that there is a plan to set aside \$5,000 of federal funding to allow participants to apply for assistance. The scholarship would be means tested and would allow a sliding scale fee based on the individual application.

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This is based on what other jurisdictions are doing as well as the County Parks and Recreation department. This should be in place by October of this year.

**VII. Unfinished Business, Dianne Lewis** – No unfinished business to report on this month.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**Nominating – Bobbie Speace** – Bobbie stated there is just one action from this committee for today's meeting. She made a motion that Marcy Gouge be the Commission liaison for the Public Guardianship Review Board. Tish seconded the motion. All were in favor. Dianne will forward to Joyce Grossnickle so she can forward the information to County Executive for approval.

**Health and Wellness, Mary Beachley** – Mary stated that she has no report today and there will be no sub-committee meeting today.

**Aging in Place and Community, Thea Ruff** – Thea stated that this subcommittee met with the Burgess and Commissioners in Walkersville last month. They presented their slideshow on the CoA and Aging in Place. There were a few questions and the information will be forwarded to other community leaders regarding the meeting at the end of the month with local seniors. Their next meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Dept. of Aging.

**Business Task Force, Tom Lawler** – Tom spoke of the two initiatives that this group has been working on. The caregiving initiative has had great progress. This initiative is to help employers understand the challenges that employees may be dealing with as they care for elderly/disabled family members. They are currently working with FCG-TV to develop an informational video. They are also working on a jobs for seniors' initiative. There are definitely barriers for older individuals reentering the job market.

**United Seniors of Maryland (USM), Tish Raff** – Tish stated that the USM was lucky to have a representative from each caucus attend their last meeting. Tish named each of the representatives who were able to attend and the caucus they represented. They each stated their commitment to seniors and their issues. The USM is a good association to participate in. It is the largest supporter of senior issues in Maryland.

Elizabeth Chung stated that she would like to see the Commission initiate a Housing Committee. Dianne stated that this could be a topic at the next Executive Committee meeting.

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**Approval of Subcommittee Reports – No action.**

**Announcements –** Dianne stated that there was an Older American Month proclamation which was videotaped and should be broadcasted on Channel 19 as well as be available on Youtube.

The Commission agendas and minutes are available on the Dept. of Aging website.

Elizabeth Chung stated that the Asian American Center has gotten approval from the dental board and will be hosting a dental health fair. It will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00am – 3:00pm at Waverly Elementary school. The flyer will be available later this week.

Veronica Lowe, Transit Services provided some Ride Guides at today's meeting. This guide provides route general information for all the bus routes available in Frederick. Transit also has on-demand services through Transit Plus which now offers a TAP (taxi access program) for their off hours. There are restrictions for the TAP access.

**IX. Adjournment -**

Dianne thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg  
Recording Secretary